

Application Serial No. 09/574,909

Claims 1-78 (Cancelled.)

79. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for matching a consumer with a home service provider comprising:

creating a database with a first computer comprising home service providers and data for tracking a historical acceptance of consumer leads by each home service provider;

receiving information relating to a home service over a computer network with the first computer from a second computer;

in response to receiving the information, providing a first list with the first computer comprising tasks that relate to skills of home service providers;

receiving a selection of a task from the first list over the computer network from the second computer;

in response to receiving the selection of the task, forming a second list with the first computer and stored in memory on the first computer that identifies a set of qualified home service providers. the second list comprising home service providers from the database who match the selected task;

selecting home service providers from the second list with the first computer based upon historical acceptance of consumer leads that tracks types of services associated with the consumer leads and are accepted by the home service providers to form a third list stored in memory on the first computer;

creating a fair and balanced distribution of consumer leads by selecting home service providers from the third list with the first computer who have a least number of consumer leads that were made available to the home service providers to form a fourth list; and

providing a third transmitting the fourth list over the computer network with the first computer to the second computer. the fourth list comprising one or more home service providers with the least number of consumer leads that were made available to the home service providers.

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80. (Previously Submitted) The method of Claim 79, further comprising selecting home service providers who match a geographical location of the consumer.

81. (Previously Submitted) The method of Claim 79, further comprising prioritizing home service providers of the second list based on the historical acceptance of consumer leads by home service providers.

82. (Previously Submitted) The method of Claim 79, further comprising selecting home service providers from the second list based upon past response times of each respective home service provider.

83. (Previously Submitted) The method of Claim 79, further comprising receiving background information from home service providers.

84. (Previously Submitted) The method of Claim 79, wherein creating the database comprises storing information comprising at least one of tasks performed by a home service provider, geographic region of operation, service response and fulfillment time, communication preferences, and preferences for tasks.

85. (Previously Submitted) The method of Claim 79, further comprising sending a message that identifies a consumer to a home service provider present in the third list.

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86. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for matching a consumer with a home service provider comprising:

receiving background information from home service providers with a first computer;

monitoring a historical acceptance of consumer leads with the first computer that tracks types of services associated with the consumer leads and are accepted by each home service provider;

creating a database of home service providers stored in a first computer based on the background information received from the home service providers;

receiving information relating to a home service from a second computer;

in response to receiving the information from the second computer, providing a menu with the first computer comprising tasks that relate to skills of home service providers;

receiving a selection of a task from the menu by the second computer;

in response to receiving the selection of the task, forming a first dataset with the first computer and stored in memory on the first computer that identifies a set of qualified home service providers, the first dataset comprising home service providers from the database who match the selected task; [[and]]

selecting home service providers from the first dataset with the first computer based upon the historical acceptance of consumer leads by home service providers to form a second dataset stored in memory in the first computer; and

creating a fair and balanced distribution of consumer leads by selecting home service providers from the second dataset with the first computer who have a least number of consumer leads that were made available to the home service providers to form a third dataset.

87. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 86, wherein forming the first dataset further comprises selecting home service providers who match a geographical location of the consumer.

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88. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 86, wherein forming the second dataset further comprises prioritizing home service providers of the dataset based on the historical acceptance of consumer leads by home service providers.

89. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 86, wherein forming the second dataset further comprises prioritizing home service providers of the dataset based on past response times to service requests.

90. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 86, further comprising providing [[a]] the third dataset comprising home service providers to the consumer.

91. (Previously Submitted) The method of Claim 86, wherein the background information comprises tasks performed by a home service provider, geographic regions of operation, service response and fulfillment time, communication preferences, and preferences for desired tasks.

92. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 86, further comprising sending a message that identifies a consumer to a home service provider present in the third dataset.

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93. (Previously Submitted) A system for matching a consumer with a home service provider via a distributed electronic network comprising:

- a database accessible via the distributed electronic network for storing background information on home service providers and for storing a historical acceptance of consumer leads by each home service provider; and

- a host server for communicating with the database and with a network device via the distributed electronic network and for executing computer-executable instructions for:

- receiving information relating to a home service;

- in response to receiving the information, providing a menu comprising tasks that relate to skills of home service providers;

- receiving a selection of a task from the menu;

- in response to receiving the selection of the task, forming a first dataset with the first computer and stored in memory on the first computer that identifies a set of qualified home service providers, the first dataset comprising home service providers from the database who match the selected task; and

- selecting home service providers from the first dataset with the first computer based upon the historical acceptance of consumer leads that tracks types of services associated with the consumer leads and are accepted by home service providers to form a second dataset stored in memory in the first computer; and

- creating a fair and balanced distribution of consumer leads by selecting home service providers from the second dataset with the first computer who have a least number of consumer leads that were made available to the home service providers to form a third dataset.

94. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 93, wherein forming the first dataset further comprises selecting home service providers who match a geographical location of the consumer.

95. (Previously Submitted) The system of Claim 93, wherein the network device comprises a personal computer running an Internet browser application.

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96. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 93, wherein the host server executes instructions for providing ~~[[a]]~~the third dataset to the consumer via the Internet.

97. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 93, wherein the host server provides ~~[[a]]~~the third dataset comprising home service providers to the consumer.

98. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 93, wherein the host server prioritizes home service providers of the second dataset based on the historical acceptance of consumer leads by home service providers.

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